

50. Grievances of the ryots in the interior parts of the State.

Mr. G. Subramanya Iyer (Member, Kunnathnad taluk) complained of the difficulties experienced by the people in interior parts in getting food supplies and congratulated Government on the satisfactory arrangements made for Civil Supplies. Still, it was not desirable to depend on foreigners for food-supply. From the active steps taken by Government it was clear that they were proceeding on the right lines. But the chief obstacle in the way of poor people being benefited was want of uniformity in the rate of *tharavila* charged on *puduvai* lands. At present the Revenue Department was causing the small holder considerable difficulties. Waste lands which were being improved by a poor ryot at great cost of money and labour were being taken away from him either by foreigners or by wealthy and influential natives. The remedy for the ills the poor people were suffering from was the fixing of a maximum *tharavila* and also the settlement of the assessment on the analogy of the adjoining lands. Secondly, there was long and wasteful delay in the disposal of *puduvai* applications. One reason why Tahsildars were empowered to dispose of *puduvai* applications to the extent of 25 acres was that no delay should occur. The Settlement Register contained full particulars of *tharavai* and *poramboke* lands, with the extent of each. But applications for certain *tharavai* lands entered in column 4 as *poramboke* were being referred to Dewan Peishkars for disposal on the score that such matters were beyond the powers of the Tahsildar. On account of this arrangement a great deal of delay was caused. The Tahsildars should be invested with the power of disposing of such applications also, except those relating to *poramboke* lands bordering rivers, canals, roads, &c. Till about two years ago the Tahsildars had the power. Thirdly, the registry of lands to foreigners should be completely stopped, as their object in securing lands was exploitation. Fourthly, marshy lands fit for paddy cultivation in the reserved forests should be thrown open for registry. In accordance with the G. O. already issued, blocks of 100 acres and above alone were excised from reserved forests. It had been stated in a later Proceedings of Government that areas of 50 acres and less were available in several forest reserves. The Member submitted that about 2,000 acres of suitable land were to be had in a locality called Panduparapalappalli in the Kunnathnad taluk and requested that they might be parcelled out to natives at easy rates of *tharavila* for paddy cultivation and not assigned to foreigners. Fifthly, the rules regarding the grant of agricultural loans should be so modified as to afford greater facilities to the ryots. The Agricultural Department should also be asked to report on the requirements of the ryots. Lastly, the Member suggested the adoption of the following measures for improving the agricultural condition:—

- (1) Opening of Manure depots in the interior parts of the taluks.
- (2) Establishment of Agricultural Farms with provision for training the children of ryots in improved and scientific methods.
- (3) Posting of seed-bulls in each Farm.
- (4) Improvement of such canals, tanks, etc., which had silted up, as could be easily restored.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

51. Hardships experienced by the ryots of Nanjanad in the matter of cultivation and suggestions for removing them.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) first spoke about the necessity of giving effect to the Proceedings of Government ordering the establishment of an Irrigation Board and requested that early action might be taken towards the constitution of the Board and the definition of its work.

- (2) Dealing with the prayer of the ryots for the Thamarakulam-Parakkay road which dated back to 1044, the Member submitted that, in spite of the locality having been inspected by the officers of the Revenue and P. W. Departments, the work had not progressed, though the lands required had been given by the people. The P. W. Officers wanted only a width of 12 feet, while there was an actual width of 21 feet. The Peishkar had also inspected the place and was satisfied with